



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 11

Laws of Minnesota 2021 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 03/27/2023

Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 11

Funds Recommended: \$4,229,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(b)

Appropriation Language: \$4,229,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in the metropolitan area as follows: \$675,000 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$220,000 to Friends of the Mississippi River; \$684,000 to Great River Greening; \$800,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and \$1,850,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$192,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

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Location Information

County Location(s): Washington, Carver, Hennepin, Wright, Scott, Dakota, Ramsey, Sibley and Chisago.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

Metro Big Rivers Phase 11 will protect 185 acres in fee title and 222 acres in permanent conservation easement, restore 49 acres and enhance 187 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (643 acres total). The partnership will leverage the OHF grants at least 19% with partner funds, private funds, local government contributions, and landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in habitat enhancement activities. Metro Big Rivers projects will benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access for wildlife-based recreation.

Design and Scope of Work

Metro Big Rivers Phase 11 will protect, restore and enhance prioritized wildlife habitat in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St.Croix Rivers and their tributaries. By expanding, connecting and improving public conservation lands, Metro Big Rivers benefits wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provides increased public access for wildlife-based recreation. See brief descriptions below and attachments for detail.

****Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will restore 10 acres and enhance 70 acres at two sites. Projects include removal of invasive woody and herbaceous plants, planting climate-adapted shrub and tree species, seeding with diverse native species mixes, establishment mowing, spot-spraying, and prescribed burns.**

- Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area: Enhance 30 acres of degraded floodplain forest, 20 acres of oak woodland and 2 acres of prairie.
- Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area, Kamen Parcel: Restore 10 acres prairie, enhance 7 acres degraded riparian habitat on a trout stream and 11 acres lowland habitat.

****Great River Greening (GRG) will restore 16 acres and enhance 117 acres across 8 sites. Projects will include removal of invasive woody and herbaceous species, mowing, spot spraying, seeding and planting.**

- Creekside Park: Restore riparian habitat along 3/4 mile of Carver Creek.
- Valley Park Phase II: Enhance oak woodland habitat.
- Garlough & Marthaler Parks: Enhance oak savanna.
- Bassett Creek Park: Restore turf to native prairie.
- Bass Lake Preserve: Enhance riparian forest around Bass Lake.
- Hidden Falls Regional Park: Enhance floodplain forest habitat.
- Spring Lake Park (Scott County): Enhance oak forest habitat.

- Wind in the Pines Nature Preserve: Enhance forest habitat along the St. Croix River.

****Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)** will protect through perpetual conservation easement 222 acres of priority habitat, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. Projects will be selected through a competitive process that ranks proposals based on ecological significance and cost (criteria attached).

MLT will restore/enhance 23 acres on lands protected through permanent conservation easement. Prioritized properties will be of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

****Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT)** will protect in fee 135 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat in the Minnesota River Valley to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. All prospective lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open to the public for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

****The Trust for Public Land (TPL)** will protect in fee 50 acres of priority wildlife habitat, including riparian, forest, wetland and grassland habitat. Potential properties are prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans. Lands will be managed by public partners (DNR and/or local units of government) and open to the public for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

Metro Big Rivers projects protect and improve habitats needed by wildlife species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) and other targeted species, and where they need them. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along the central flyway (the three big rivers) provides great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

Friends of the Mississippi River will enhance critical habitat at two sites. The Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area is next to the Mississippi River, an Audubon-designated Important Bird Area, and provides critical habitat for neotropical migrant birds. The property includes over 600 species of plants and animals, and 11 plant species unique to the county. The Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area is a designated trout stream, where fishing, trapping and hunting are permitted.

Great River Greening will also conduct significant habitat work on public conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance riverine, forest, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitat at 8 conservation sites.

Minnesota Land Trust will target its protection and restoration/enhancement action to priority privately owned lands to permanently protect high-quality upland and shoreland habitats from fragmentation, development, and other impacts that undermine the viability of SGCN and T&E species. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands already protected through easement.

Minnesota Valley Trust will acquire in fee lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN.

The Trust for Public Land will acquire lands in fee identified and prioritized in state, regional, and local natural

resource plans due to their high biodiversity significance, connectivity to existing public lands, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. Acquisitions and subsequent habitat work increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

In addition, the easement partner's competitive RFP process includes a second analysis of all proposed projects submitted by landowners for protection. This assessment evaluates the ecological significance of the proposed parcel, which includes the following three factors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of activities over time on wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.*

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

Metro Big Rivers 11 will leverage the OHF appropriation with an estimated \$726,840 in other funds (20%). The partnership has secured commitments of supplemental funding from the partners, private sources, local government units, watershed districts / management organizations and park districts.

MLT encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement, which is shown as leveraged funds in the budget. MLT has a long track record gaining landowner participation in this fashion. To date across all MBR grants, \$2,885,500 in easement value has been donated by landowners as leverage. MLT expects a significant landowner contribution to continue in MBR Phase 11; a conservative estimate of leverage is \$330,000.

Crews of volunteers will add significant in-kind value to the restoration / enhancement projects. This value is not included in the leverage funds, but is important to note here. Volunteers effectively replace or enhance paid crews and contracts on many projects, saving funds. Use of volunteers also effectively educates and engages the community in conservation work, which is critical for the future of conservation.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2009	Other State	\$741,058
2012	Other State	\$684,449
2012	Local & Federal	\$413,561
2012	Private & Other	\$2,063,388
2013	Other State	\$2,130,284

2013	Local & Federal	\$1,320,606
2013	Private	\$1,253,038
2014	Other State	\$1,873,857
2014	Local	\$516,119
2014	Private	\$1,931,527
2015	Other State	\$2,224,751
2009	Local & Federal	\$230,310
2015	Local	\$1,295,000
2015	Private	\$1,449,198
2016	Other State	\$912,867
2016	Local & Federal	\$1,822,000
2016	Private	\$2,700,091
2017	Other State	\$630,060
2017	Local	\$739,800
2017	Private & Other	\$1,278,433
2018	Other State	\$656,593
2018	Local	\$253,321
2009	Private	\$940,884
2018	Private	\$2,025,433
2019	Other State	\$381,241
2019	Local	\$418,524
2019	Private & Other	\$636,255
2010	Other State	\$2,010,658
2010	Local & Federal	\$485,122
2010	Private	\$3,516,521
2011	Other State	\$1,429,358
2011	Local & Federal	\$543,900
2011	Private	\$1,578,572

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

All public partners have committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements.

All MBR restore/enhance (FMR, GRG, MLT) partners will raise public and private sources and work cooperatively with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained.

Lands protected through easement by MLT will be sustained following best standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, tracking ownership changes, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT provides habitat management plans to landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management.

Lands acquired in fee title by MVT for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be sustained and maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration / enhancement will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS.

Lands acquired in fee title by TPL will be conveyed to the DNR or local units of government for permanent stewardship. Initial site development and restoration costs are included in this proposal. TPL will work with the steward to develop habitat plans.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Ongoing	FMR, GRG, MLT, Local Partners, Private Landowners	Monitoring and assessment of restoration and enhancement projects	Target actions, engage local partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct any damage
Ongoing	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of completed easements	Enforcement actions as necessary	-
Post-Acquisition, Ongoing	MVT, TPL, Public Partners	Post acquired property	Develop & implement habitat restoration and enhancement plans	Transfer property to public partner, steward

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

No

Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:

Local units of government will be notified of pending fee title acquisitions, as required by law.

Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?

Yes

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?

Yes

Who will manage the easement?

Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

MLT will acquire 1-6 conservation easements, depending on size/cost of prioritized parcels and level of donative value provided by landowners.

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- AMA
- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- County/Municipal

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

Easement Acquisition:

The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high-quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

Restoration/Enhancement:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration. For example, short-term use of soybeans could be used for restorations in order to control weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank.

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs.pdf.

Lands acquired by The Trust for Public Land will be open for fishing and hunting.

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

- State of MN
- Federal

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

- WMA
- National Wildlife Refuge

What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?

2-4

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

Yes

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

We are not aware of any trails or roads at this time, although some parcels acquired in fee title may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails. Properties identified and prioritized for protection through conservation easements often have trails and roads on them; private landowners typically will be allowed to use those trails/roads on their property.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Trails and roads on eased lands are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads or trails in line with the easement terms will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions. If any are discovered on lands to be managed by the DNR, they will be managed per DNR policy for WMAs, AMAs, SNAs or State Forests. If they are discovered on lands to be managed by local units of government, they will be managed per a maintenance and monitoring plan developed in consultation with LSOHC staff.

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition?

No

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?

No

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?

No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

Restoration and enhancement needs associated with fee title and easement projects completed under this grant will be assessed. Needs identified will be addressed through private sources, Conservation Partners Legacy Grant proposals and/or future funding proposals to LSOHC. If funds remain in this grant, an amendment may be submitted to allow those funds to be reallocated to restoration and enhancement on lands protected by this grant.

For the restoration / enhancement on eased lands, MLT restoration personnel will conduct outreach with easement landowners to evaluate, scope, design and schedule additional restoration projects. These activities will improve the project selection, cost-estimates and outcomes for future OHF funding requests.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
FMR - Restore 10 acres and enhance 70 acres	June 2026
GRG - Restore 24 acres and enhance 94 acres	June 2026
MLT - Restore 23 acres	June 2026
MLT - Protect 222 acres under conservation easement	June 2025
MVT - Protect 135 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2025
TPL - Protect 50 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2025

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2026

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. For acquiring real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2025. Money for restoration or enhancement is available until June 30, 2026. Money for restoration and enhancement of land acquired with an appropriation in this article is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2029. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan. Money appropriated for acquiring land in fee title may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$396,700	\$86,500	-	\$483,200
Contracts	\$633,000	\$15,800	MN DNR, Macalester College, Volunteers	\$648,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$600,500	\$50,000	RIM, Private	\$650,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$675,000	\$170,000	-, MN Valley Trust	\$845,000
Easement Acquisition	\$1,192,500	\$360,000	-, Private landowners	\$1,552,500
Easement Stewardship	\$192,000	-	-	\$192,000
Travel	\$19,000	\$2,000	Private	\$21,000
Professional Services	\$265,000	-	-	\$265,000
Direct Support Services	\$114,800	\$119,700	Great River Greening, Private	\$234,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$17,500	-	-	\$17,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Supplies/Materials	\$100,500	\$2,600	-, MN DNR, Carver, Crystal	\$103,100
DNR IDP	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Grand Total	\$4,229,000	\$806,600	-	\$5,035,600

Partner: Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR)**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
Contracts	\$168,500	\$15,800	MN DNR, Macalester College, Volunteers	\$184,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,100	-	-	\$2,100
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$23,400	\$600	MN DNR	\$24,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$220,000	\$16,400	-	\$236,400

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Staff (ecologists, conservation director, stewardship, bookkeeper, interns)	0.37	4.0	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000

Partner: Great River Greening**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$122,700	\$86,500	-	\$209,200
Contracts	\$352,500	-	-	\$352,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$5,900	-	-	\$5,900
Professional Services	\$75,000	-	-	\$75,000
Direct Support Services	\$44,500	\$93,200	Great River Greening	\$137,700
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$6,500	-	-	\$6,500
Supplies/Materials	\$76,900	\$2,000	Carver, Crystal	\$78,900
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$684,000	\$181,700	-	\$865,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff (ecologist, technicians, etc.)	0.75	5.0	\$122,700	\$86,500	Carver, Crystal, Mendota Heights, Scandia, St Louis Park, West St Paul, Friends of Scandia Parks, Dakota County, Scott County	\$209,200

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$160,000	-	-	\$160,000
Contracts	\$92,000	-	-	\$92,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,192,500	\$360,000	Private landowners	\$1,552,500
Easement Stewardship	\$192,000	-	-	\$192,000
Travel	\$11,000	-	-	\$11,000
Professional Services	\$150,000	-	-	\$150,000
Direct Support Services	\$43,800	-	-	\$43,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$7,500	-	-	\$7,500
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$200	-	-	\$200
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,850,000	\$360,000	-	\$2,210,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.1	4.0	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
MLT Protection Staff	0.32	4.0	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000

Partner: Minnesota Valley Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$675,000	\$170,000	MN Valley Trust	\$845,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$675,000	\$170,000	-	\$845,000

Partner: Trust for Public Land**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$88,000	-	-	\$88,000
Contracts	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$600,500	\$50,000	RIM, Private	\$650,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$2,000	Private	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$40,000	-	-	\$40,000
Direct Support Services	\$26,500	\$26,500	Private	\$53,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Grand Total	\$800,000	\$78,500	-	\$878,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Staff (protection, legal)	0.18	3.0	\$88,000	-	-	\$88,000

Amount of Request: \$4,229,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$806,600**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 19.07%**DSS + Personnel:** \$511,500**As a % of the total request:** 12.1%**Easement Stewardship:** \$192,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 16.1%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

Metro Big Rivers partners have reduced the number of projects and acres to accommodate the reduced appropriation.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage includes expected donated easement value by landowners, and possible partial donation of fee title value by landowners, committed partner and other private funds, committed and anticipated city, county, park district and watershed district / organization funds, and anticipated RIM funds.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?

FTEs listed in the proposal are an estimate of the personnel time required to deliver the grant outputs included in this proposal. An array of staff work on projects to complete project planning, sub-contracting, negotiating with landowners, drafting conservation easements, completing baseline reports and managing the grant. Our basis for billing is the individual Protection or Restoration project we work on, ensuring allocation to the appropriate grant award. By using a timesheet based approach, we use only those personnel funds actually expended to achieve the goals of the grant.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Restoration / enhancement contracts with service providers (FMR, GRG, MLT). Habitat management plan preparation, landowner outreach by county SWCD offices (MLT). Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities (TPL).

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

2-4

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

MLT will acquire 1-6 easements, depending on cost of prioritized parcels and donative value provided by landowners.

The average cost per easement to perpetually fund the Minnesota Land Trust's long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000. This figure has been determined by using a detailed stewardship funding calculator or "cost analysis" which is the industry standard according to the Land Trust Accreditation process. This cost analysis examines seventeen different categories of future annual expenditures related to the management of the easement and then calculates what the Land Trust needs in one-time funding to cover these various expenditures in perpetuity. In addition, the Land Trust seeks private contributions whenever possible to further leverage these state funds. The Minnesota Land Trust reviews and updates this cost-analysis periodically to ensure that the organization will have the capacity to fulfill its ongoing obligations. This cost-analysis is on file with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council staff and the Land Trust shares a new version with the Council whenever updates are made.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

Not applicable

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

Partners have direct support expenses essential to complete conservation projects, which include such costs as administrative support staff, office space, printing and office supplies.

GRG -- DSS rate has been approved by the DNR in September 2019, GRG's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion, not exceeding 50%, of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage.

MLT -- In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.

FMR and MVT are not requesting DSS.

TPL -- DSS rate is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

GPS unit, post pounders, hand tools, saws, brush cutters, and other necessary equipment to complete restoration and enhancement activities.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	21	5	23	49
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	50	50
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	135	135
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	222	222
Enhance	11	25	151	-	187
Total	11	46	156	430	643

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$85,400	\$294,700	\$100,000	\$480,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$800,000	\$800,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$675,000	\$675,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000
Enhance	\$14,000	\$73,100	\$436,800	-	\$523,900
Total	\$14,000	\$158,500	\$731,500	\$3,325,000	\$4,229,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	49	-	-	-	-	49
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	50	-	-	-	-	50
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	135	-	-	-	-	135
Protect in Easement	222	-	-	-	-	222
Enhance	187	-	-	-	-	187
Total	643	-	-	-	-	643

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$480,100	-	-	-	-	\$480,100
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$800,000	-	-	-	-	\$800,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$675,000	-	-	-	-	\$675,000
Protect in Easement	\$1,750,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,750,000
Enhance	\$523,900	-	-	-	-	\$523,900
Total	\$4,229,000	-	-	-	-	\$4,229,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$4,066	\$58,940	\$4,347
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$16,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$5,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$7,882
Enhance	\$1,272	\$2,924	\$2,892	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$9,797	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$16,000	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$5,000	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$7,882	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$2,801	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

5

Parcels

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MLT's competitive RFP process for identifying, prioritizing and selecting parcels for the Metro Big Rivers easement program is attached. MLT prioritizes parcels for restoration and enhancement that are of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

MVT seeks to acquire land within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Within those boundaries, parcels are prioritized based on adjacency or proximity to lands already publicly-protected, the opportunity to protect lands from development and restore habitat to meet ecological and public use objectives, and the feasibility of completing large blocks of protected and publicly-managed lands over time.

TPL works with its public partners (Minnesota DNR and local units of government) to identify priority opportunities that expand on and create new public conservation investments that protect high-quality wetland, woodland, prairie and riparian habitat.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
GRG - Creekside Park	Carver	11524224	5	\$294,700	Yes
FMR - Vermillion River AMA - Kamen Parcel	Dakota	11419223	28	\$66,200	Yes
GRG - Garlough & Marthaler Parks	Dakota	28220217	23	\$91,100	Yes
FMR - Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area	Dakota	02722223	52	\$153,790	Yes
GRG - Valley Park Phase II	Dakota	28230223	5	\$42,300	Yes
GRG - Bassett Creek Park	Hennepin	11821221	11	\$25,000	Yes
GRG - Bass Lake Preserve	Hennepin	28240206	11	\$80,000	Yes

GRG - Hidden Falls Regional Park	Ramsey	28230217	7	\$55,400	Yes
GRG - Spring Lake Park (Scott County)	Scott	11422204	7	\$54,200	Yes
MLT - RRAmb	Sibley	11226214	80	\$240,000	Yes
GRG - Wind in the Pines	Washington	32190207	64	\$39,300	Yes

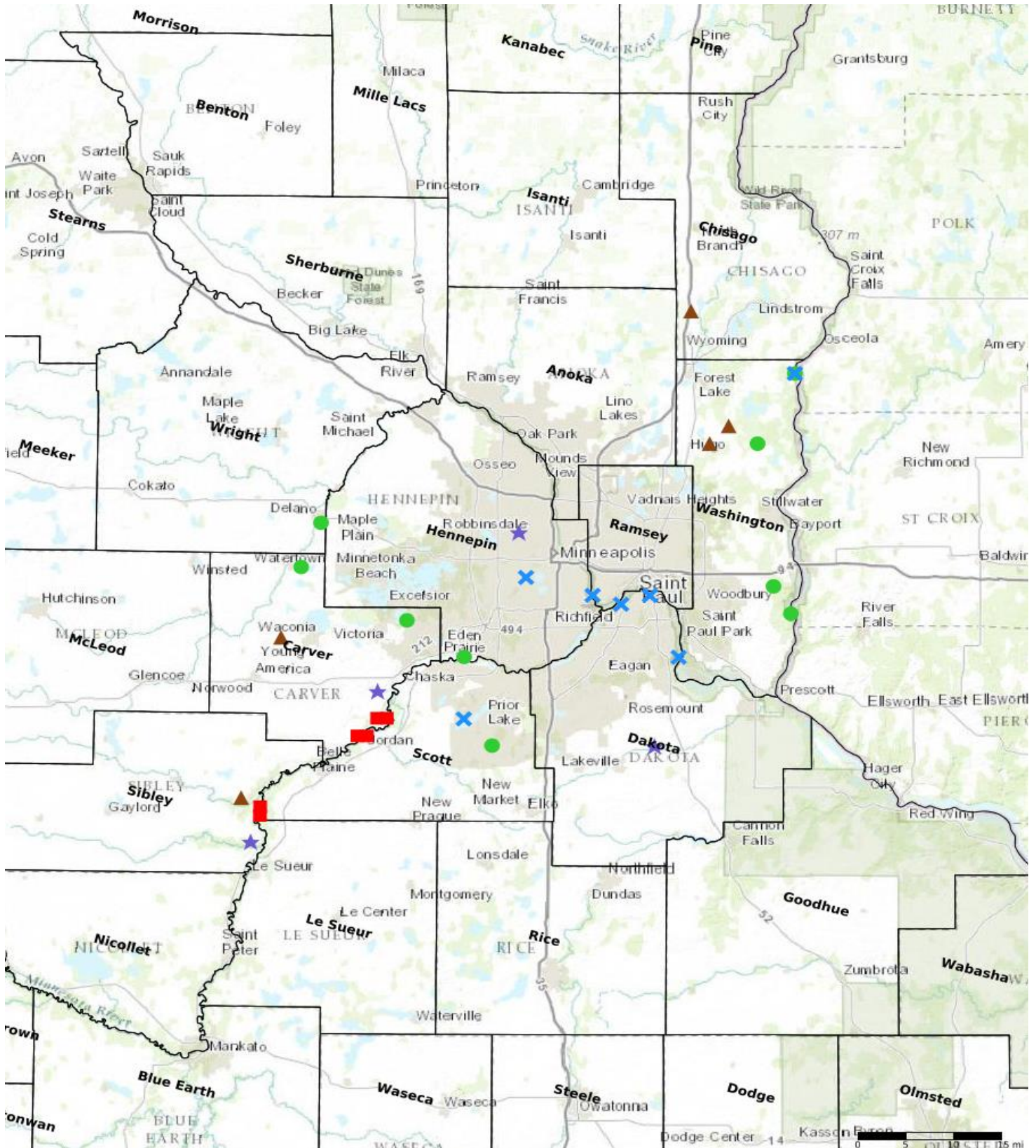
Protect Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424201	168	\$546,000	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424214	200	\$600,000	No
MLT - Oak Lake	Carver	11725210	85	\$400,000	No
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11423206	118	\$826,000	No
TPL - Patterson Lake WMA Addition	Carver	11625220	650	\$4,500,000	No
MLT - Lake Minnewashta	Carver	11623209	75	\$3,000,000	No
TPL - Carlos Avery WMA Addition	Chisago	03321205	60	\$80,000	No
MLT - Minnesota River	Hennepin	11622233	935	\$2,000,000	No
MLT - Cleary Lake	Scott	11422224	150	\$500,000	No
MVT - Blakeley Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Scott	11326236	194	\$630,500	No
TPL - Vale WMA Addition	Sibley	11326222	165	\$550,000	No
MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Sibley	11326225	160	\$400,000	No
MLT - Carnelian Creek	Washington	03120221	76	\$650,000	No
TPL - Paul Hugo Farms WMA Addition	Washington	03121222	230	\$1,000,000	No
TPL - Keystone Woods (Kelly Farm)	Washington	03121212	500	\$5,000,000	No
MLT - Valley Creek 2	Washington	02820209	35	\$250,000	No
MLT - St. Croix River 2	Washington	02820226	76	\$937,000	No
MLT - St. Croix River 1	Washington	03219207	76	\$750,000	No
MLT - Crow River	Wright	11825213	70	\$100,000	No

Protect Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition	Carver	11424215	392	\$2,940,000	Yes	2	\$300,000

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other